This Month:

General Meeting

Sat., January 20th, 12:00 Noon

Greenfield Park Lutheran Church

1236 S. 115th St., West Allis

Exec. Board Meeting

Sun., January 28th, 7:30pm

Pepino's, 9909 W. Appleton

Next Month:

General Meeting

Sat., February 17th, 12:00 Noon

Greenfield Park Lutheran Church

1236 S. 115th St., West Allis

Inside:

Michelle Gross

From The President

1990! Hard to believe, isn't it?

Now that a new year has begun, it is also a time for us to begin making the changes necessary to make your club do a better job at fulfilling the needs of the membership. Your board is committed to doing just that and I have news of some much needed upcoming events to announce to you today.

As I write this, there has only been one between-meetings SIG, so I have no idea what the attendance was at our second meeting, which was lead by Lee Musial and Armin Baier covering Data Manager, but I have had volunteers to lead the SIG in the future. Dennis Wilson will be conducting the February SIG on the topic of hard drives, and I urge anyone interested in owning, or owning one at the present, to be sure and show up for the SIG. Dennis has had much experience with these contraptions, so I am sure it will be well worth the trip out into the elements. Much thanks to Dennis, Lee and Armin, who have generously donated their time and talents into the SIGS...The only way to ensure the continuation of these weeknight SIGs is to show interest, so I hope to see many of you attend.

I also received a very generous offer from another member, JJ, who is also a very active member of the Lake County Atari Group, and he will be bringing his system into one of our Saturday meetings, either in February or March, to demonstrate Migraph's Hand Scanner and Touch-up!

Finally, on the ST side, my other half has promised (or else...ahem), a SIG on DynaCadd, the premier computer aided design program for the ST. This will be demonstrated during one of our normal meetings as well, but I can not give a definite on the date at this moment. David may be showing this program as early as January, or else he will be demonstrating it at the meeting opposite from JJ's demo. In any case, you won't want to miss any of the next few month's meetings for sure!

On the 8-bit side of the club, we are still holding our monthly SIG at the Saturday meetings, and as always, new topic ideas and or leaders are encouraged. Other 8-bit news to report: the club has purchased a monitor and we also picked up a 130XE. We now have a complete system for demos and SIGS for our 8-bit members. My thanks to Bruce Rahlf for doing the "shopping" for us.

I would also like to thank Linda Heinrich, who has stepped forward to fill the position of Secretary, which as you know had been held by our Editor Doug Raeburn. It is this influx of new blood that keeps our club alive and flourishing despite the decrease in User Groups, not just Atari, but all such groups, nation wide. Linda's old position of Public Relations Officer is now vacant, so anyone interested in taking a more active roll in the club please see me at the next meeting, or give me a call.

You will notice the smaller newsletter this month, which is due to the temporary demise of our BBS. Hopefully, by the time you read this the problem will have been fixed...we have experienced a hard drive failure, and are currently exploring several options available to us to get her back online.

Finally, a plug for our newsletter. We received a letter from Artisan Software, the sponsors of the "Atari Revolution" in response to an article written by Bob Carpenter in the November newsletter. Mr. Thomas' response is included in its entirety in this issue, and I will have the letter at the January meeting. I applaud

MilAtari Ltd.
The Milwaukee Area
Atari Users Group
Post Office Box 14038
West Allis, WI 53214

Membership in MilAtari Ltd. is open to all individuals and families interested in personal computing. Annual dues are $20.00 for individuals, $25.00 per family and includes a one year subscription to this newsletter and access to club libraries. Membership applications may be obtained at the monthly meeting or by writing to the club Secretary at the above address.

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January MIDI SIG

This month we'll take a look at Sonus Super Score. Super Score is a MIDI sequencer and music scoring or notation program that is loaded with top notch features. We'll also play around with a 32 track public domain sequencer that can be found on our BBS. Speaking of our BBS, don't forget that we have a MIDI room on line where we can exchange info and ideas between meetings. There are also a number of MIDI files in the room's directory, so don't hesitate to use this excellent club resource.

See you at the SIG!

Tom Bardenwerper

ST Vice President

Donald A. Thomas, Jr.

The REVOLUTION

A Rebuttal

Editor's note: The following is a letter we received in response to an article in the November, 1989 issue of the **MilAtari Limited Edition** entitled **Is this "Revolution" for you?** written by Bob Carpenter. In the interests of fair play in editorial policies, I felt that it was proper to give Mr. Thomas an opportunity to respond to Mr. Carpenter's views. Should you wish to respond directly to Mr. Thomas or obtain further information on The REVOLUTION, he can be contacted at:

> Artisan Software
> Post Office Box 849
> Manteca, CA 95336

November 27, 1989

Dear Mr. Carpenter,

Thank you for your candid impressions regarding The REVOLUTION. I endorse all feedback whether they be for or against. As you might guess, I do take friendly exception with some of your points. I hope I have received your criticism responsibly and I hope you might consider mine in the same spirit. I do respect your opinion and do not wish to argue... just shed a different light.

First, The REVOLUTION is not being represented in any way as "the answer to the small American Atari user base." I think it would be presumptuous for anyone to make such a claim. There is nothing that I know of which even alludes to such a claim contained in The REVOLUTION. The spirit of The REVOLUTION is not much more than an attempt to redirect the negative editorials, energies and verbalizations to be outward and positive rather than habitually inward and negative.

Your claim that people misinterpret a letter stamped with "Join The REVOLUTION...use an Atari computer" might have substance SINCE you left out half the phrase. I think you may also be as over dramatic with your claim that people are going to have heart problems over it as I am with some of the suggested projects. There is no "left-wing" or "right-wing" here. Take a survey. MOST non-Atari users think Atari is a casualty from the PAC-MAN days. That is a fact. Stamping The REVOLUTION statement on mail (the entire statement) arouses curiosity and invites investigation.

Your comments regarding stamping everything "to a ridiculous extreme" leads me to believe that you may be a fine writer, but never a marketing major in college. Are you

proposing that everyone say "buy the Atari computer" once then drop it? NO?... How many times then? Are you proposing that everyone should be enticed to make a random statement?... That a statement with a theme of unity and action has no merit? "Where's The Beef?" would not be remembered if said only once. While you may see it many times while sending it out, your non-Atari recipients will, by statistics, need to see it dozens of times before they consider to take action.

I think you may have a negative view of the word Revolution. Should we have called it: "Join the FAD... use an Atari computer!"?

I regret that implementing a couple of good-will gestures such as writing letters to hurting kids offends you. You may wish to write to Jerry Lewis. He accepts a huge percentage as compensation for his annual telethons. But, I guess that does not offend you because his name is not Jerry REVOLUTION.

Your comments regarding famous people strike me rather odd. From the sounds of it, I should have had 10,000 people write to my mom in Chicago. Certainly she would not make jokes about it and everyone would hear about it. Right? You must keep in mind that some companies would be thrilled to spend thousands of dollars to get Johnny Carson to make jokes about their products. Unless he comes out and says "This product is no good", the fact that he thought enough to make jokes about it means a lot to tens upon tens of thousands of people.

I never really expect that Johnny Carson, or any celebrity, is going to bend backwards to accommodate the campaign. The point is that we are trying to create newsworthy activities without hurting anyone or tearing anyone down.

I disagree with your impressions of shows in malls as well. Please call some mall management people around your area and ask them with they would mind having 3,000 additional customers in their mall next mid-June.

You are correct that The REVOLUTION is overdone and sensationalized. If it wasn't, you probably would not have felt compelled to react to it. I do suggest that you think about something though. There are people who are leaders and people who are followers. If leaders, as yourself, are steering people away from something that could have worked... WHY? I can understand why any one person may not want to be bothered, but why would they inflict peer pressure against it?

I have been a little harsh. I am sorry. You are a fine writer. We can use your help! Please consider to use your skills by writing letters to people you think will make a difference.

Sincerely,

Donald A. Thomas, Jr.

President, Artisan Software

The editor and guests
Bits 'n Bytes

New Membersfor December

Please welcome the newest additions to our ranks:

The **Dropp** family (Steve, Doug, Kathy, Dave and Chris) owns a 130XE and list their main interest as playing games. Well, MilAtari can put you in contact with quite a few avid gamers, and maybe we can interest you in some other types of software along the way.

Sharon Meier (along with family members Glen, Andy and Ben) has a 1040ST system. She rates her computer knowledge as advanced, and she has a special interest in graphics. Perhaps we can convince Sharon to share some of her computer and/or graphics knowledge at one of our SIGs... how about it, Sharon?

Edward Hanlon is a beginner/intermediate level member running a 520ST. He is looking for help to advance to further levels, and also for programs. Between our SIGs and our libraries, I think you've come to the right place, Edward!

Michael Durmeyer is the owner of a 520ST color system (expanded to 1 Meg). He is knowledgable in BASIC and C programming languages. He's looking for access to our libraries and contact with ST owners close to home. If you can give our secretary a list of cities near your home, perhaps she can put you in contact with fellow ST'ers in your area.

Glad to have you all on our team!

Software Reviews

Elsewhere on this page, I have printed a notice from **Dr. Armin Baier**, our special events chairman, concerning reviews of software won at the Christmas party. This software was donated by various companies and, if we would like to receive donations in the future, we must recognize these donations in the newsletter in the form of a review. Please help us maintain our standing with these companies and contact Dr. Baier as requested. We would prefer if the winners could write the reviews... however, if there is a problem with that, **please** contact Armin anyway, so we can arrange for another interested member to write the review. This is extremely important, so please do your part for the club. Thanks for your understanding and cooperation.

By the way, Armin, you and your committee members did a superb job on the Christmas party. Thanks so much for all of your time and effort... it is greatly appreciated!

Well, that's all the room I have for this month... talk to you in February!

Doug

SIG Announcement

The subject of the Tuesday night ST SIG session for February will be hard drives. If you do not know anything about hard drives, but are curious whether you "need" one and whether the benefits justify the cost, plan to attend. Likewise, if you KNOW you "need" one, but are bewildered by the choices available, maybe we can answer your questions and give you enough information to make an intelligent decision. Purchasers of these exotic pieces of equipment will soon find that another field of software opens up to them. I will be bringing a hard drive to the session and demoing some of these programs, such as some of the Codehead Software programs, like "Hotwire". Also discussed will be backing up hard drive data to floppy disks. I hope to see all of you there on Tuesday, February 6th.

Dennis Wilson

ST Public Domain Librarian

Notice to Prize Winners

Any member who won software at the Christmas party, **please** contact Dr. Armin Baier at 774-1673. He would like to arrange to have the software reviewed in the newsletter, in accordance with our arrangements with the software companies making the donations. Thank you for your cooperation!

From The President
from page 1

Donald Thomas, President of Artisan Software for his ideas and efforts on the behalf of the entire Atari community as expressed in the Revolution Handbook. I am sorry if Bob's views on the project offended him in any way, however I defend Bob's right to his opinion, and give him due credit for writing the article for our newsletter. At least Mr. Thomas knows that his handbook has been read by Bob, and has been given feedback. We at MilAtari encourage free expression of ideas/comments/criticisms.

However, I point this out to you to make you aware that our newsletter is read by many individuals and corporate officers, nation wide. (Just talk to Bob, who has had a few responses to his articles!) Our opinions, views, needs and desires as Atari users and consumers are read, considered, and taken seriously...but unless they are *expressed*, they fall on deaf ears.

Take advantage of what this club has to offer you. Make your opinions known. Submit your views to your newsletter Editor.

A happy, healthy and prosperous New Year to all of you from your board of directors!

Michelle

MilAtari Ltd. Mail Order Form

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ST PD Disks @ $4.00 each

To learn the contents of all disks in our ST PD library, order our Catalog and Library Disk Set. The Catalog disk gives a description of each program. The Library disk is a listing of all files by disk. The 2-disk set is specially priced at only $6.00.

Quantity	Description (Library Disk #)	Amount
	Catalog and Library Disk Set @ $6.00 per set	
	Supplementary Library Catalog and Library Disk @ $4.00 each	

8-Bit PD Disks @ $3.00 each

Quantity	Description	Amount
	Library Disk @ $3.00 each	

Total:

Dennis Wilson

ST PD Update

MilAtari Ltd. ST Public Domain Library Disks are available at the meeting at a price of $3.50 per disk, and through mail order at $4.00 per disk. The charge for the disks covers the cost of the media and handling, with all proceeds going to support the activities activities of MilAtari Ltd.

Some of the programs on these disks have been released as shareware and are so documented in the programs themselves. MilAtari Ltd. supports the shareware concept and you are encouraged to make donations to the individual authors should you find their programs useful.

The MilAtari PD Libraries are intended to provide a repository for useful and interesting programs, and each file is tested before inclusion on the disk. We believe that each file is worthy of your consideration. No warranty is expressed nor implied, however, as to their content or usability. Defective disks will be gladly replaced. These disks are made available for sale at the the monthly club meeting and may be ordered in advance by posting a message in the Library Lounge on the club BBS.

DISK 241 - UTILITYDISK

BLRUT16:	A collection of 24 utilities to make your desktop chores easier.
01) ACDAF	A track-at-a-time sector copier that formats the destination disk.
02) ACF	A file copier which will copy files from one drive to another while allowing you to rename the files on the destination drive.
03) ALPAF	Lists or prints the ASCII/hex representation of any file.
04) ALPTF	Lists or prints any text file on any drive.
05) ALTF	Lists any standard text file, forward/backward by line,page, or file.
06) BUD	Backs up or copies an entire directory from one disk or hard drive partition to another.
07) CD	A track-at-a-time sector copier that will copy a disk without formatting the destination.
08) CDAF	Similar to the above, but formats the destination.
09) CF	Copies a file on any drive to another with the requirement to key in the output path.
10) CTD	Does a track-at-a-time sector compare of two disks.
11) DDI	Displays just about all the information it is possible to garner from a disk drive or hard drive partition (i.e. of any valid drive.
12) DFM	Displays the total amount of free memory.
13) DKV	Displays the ASCII code and scan code for any key on the Atari ST keyboard.
14) DSE	Allows the user to modify any sector of a disk or hard drive partition.
15) EADF	Erases all the files that are in the root directory of a disk.
16) LD	Lists any directory of a disk or hard drive partition, sorted by name.
17) LPAD	Lists or prints a the directory of a disk or hard drive partition with choice of it being sorted by name or not.
18) LPAF	Lists or prints the ASCII/hex representation of any file on a disk or hard drive partition.
19) LPD	Lists or prints any directory on a disk or hard drive partition with choice of it being sorted by name or not.
20) LPS	Lists or prints the ASCII/hex representation of any sector of a disk or hard drive partition.
21) LPTF	Lists or prints any standard text file on any valid drive.
22) LTF	List any standard text file on any valid drive, forward or backward by line, page, or file.
23) PMTF	Prints all the text files in a designated directory/folder that have a designated extension.
24) SDS	Displays the bytes used and free on each partition of a hard drive.
CLOKSYNC:	Clock Sync - A program which allows you to set both the Gemdos and the XBIOS clocks in your ST. Some programs apparently use one or another and your clock setting otherwise may be incorrect.
DSKCHART:	Disk Chart - Shows the amount of used and free space on all active disk drives and hard drive partitions in a bar graph format. Bars for all drives are shown side-by-side, allowing visual comparison of the space used and available. Click on "Report", and get the numerical data.
FILECOPY:	A program which copies selected files from a directory on a source disk in Drive A to a destination disk.

DISK 242 - UTILITYDISK

BOWL_3:	League Bowling Secretary - A utility program for keeping track of the scores of a bowling league. This program will handle up to a 60 week season with up to 40 teams, consisting of 1 to 5 players per team. You may also have up to 200 substitutes for the league. The substitutes are not assigned to any certain team, so they may play on any one of the 40 available teams. The

ST PD Update
from previous page.

program will handle the following special cases: 1) Blind Games, 2) Postponed Games, 3) Forfeited Games, 4) Delete Players/Subs, 5) Recover Players/Subs, 6) Position Nights, 7) Player Swaps, 8) Extra Players, and 9) Different Handicaps for Men and Women.

FB2: First Base Ver 1.6 - First Base is a fast memory resident database system for small and medium size applications. It is not full featured but has a wide range of uses, is fast and very easy to learn and use. Options in the program are selected either by use of the function keys or by selecting from pull down menus with the mouse. The return, delete, backspace, insert, home and arrow keys are also used when editing a record. It runs in medium or high resolution on an Atari ST or Mega.

DISK 243 - GAMEDISK

STARTREK: Star Trek - The Next Generation, Encounter at Arcturus (Part I) - A strategy game wherein you play the commander of the Enterprise as you battle from 1 to 5 Ferengi ships. The "Game Options" button contains a few help screens and configuration options. This game requires 1 megabyte of memory. Part II is on Disk 244, and both disks are required in order to run the program.

TANGRAM: The object of TANGRAM is to form an object with the seven tangram pieces shown. The play screen consists of the object area which contains the object to be covered by the pieces, the 7 tangram pieces, and several function buttons. The pieces to cover the Tangram may be moved, rotated, and flipped in order to make them fit. This is a demo version of the full featured program. This version has one Tangram, while the full version which may be order from the author has 1,000 Tangrams.

DISK 244 - GAMEDISK

SHERLOCK: You are Sherlock Holmes and asked to solve a murder case that happened in the house you'll see on the screen. Ask all people where they've been at different times, when they saw the murder victim last and so on. When you're ready, accuse the right person and solve the case.

STARTREK: Star Trek - The Next Generation, Encounter at Arcturus (Part II) - Contained on this disk are the digitized sound files for the Startrek game on Disk 243. The separation of files was done to facilitate providing the program to owners of single-sided drives.

DISK 245 - GAMEDISK

ECOLOGY: This is the game ECO, a never released game by Ocean. Apparently, the developers ran out of money. This Beta test version, which is apparently the only version of the game in existence, has midi sound, has great 3-D animation, and vector graphics. The control system is somewhat like Dungeon Master. The object of the game is to feed the insect, then mate with another of your own kind. No, there aren't any erotic scenes.

HEROES: AD&D Supermedic Program for US Gold's AD&D "Heroes of the Lance" - Copy DD_MEDIC.TOS to the disk containing your save file and run it any time your party is in need of a little bit of extra help. This program will do the following to your save file: 1) Boost Blue Crystal Staff power to 255 charges, 2) Boost Staff of Magus power to 255 charges, 3) Heal everyone to 100% hit points, 4) Place who is R.I.P. back in the party, and 5) If Tanis has any empty pockets, it will give him a Red Quiver containing 255 arrows. The program will not change your score or position.

STARWREK: Star Wreck - A humorous takeoff of Star Trek. This is a graphic adventure made with STAC, the adventure game creator. The object of the game is simply to get off the Enterprise. This isn't as easy as it sounds, however. Be sure to examine all objects closely in order to get the full flavor of the humor. Some graphics are animated.

ON-LINE MAGAZINES NOW AVAILABLE

Over the last few months, it has been suggested by a number of people that the some of the on-line magazines be made available on disks for members who do not have modems and who are not therefore able to download them from the club BBS. With the apparent demise of 2 more ST magazines, I believe that it is an idea whose time has come, as sources of information concerning what is happening in the ST world are getting ever scarcer. As of the January meeting, therefore, I will have available at the meeting a disk of the latest ST Reports magazine files. Each month, I will delete the oldest files and add the latest ones available. ST Reports are published weekly, so there should be about 4 new files added every month, with the oldest ones being eliminated. If you are interested in keeping abreast of events in this manner, be sure to pick up the ST Reports disk every month, as the deleted files will NOT be available after their elimination from the disk. The ST Reports disk will be sold at the same cost as other Library disks. If this disk is mail ordered, the disk shipped will be that which was available at the last club meeting.

Tom Bardenwerper

VideoKey

Mfg: Practical Solutions	**List Price:** $99.95
Type: ST Hardware - RGB to Composite Convertor	
Overall Rating: Excellent	

VideoKey by is yet another handy little gadget by the ingenious inventors at Practical Solutions. Videokey is a small, quality constructed box (about 4''x5''x1.5'') that allows a composite video or a TV (RF) color signal to be output to a composite monitor or any television. Additional features include a mono audio output jack, feed through monitor port and an indicator light to tell you when it is on and sending a signal to a monitor or television. This light also doubles as a "Colorloc" adjustment indicator. What that means is you can synchronize the unit to your ST to keep the colors from fluttering on the screen. A small "Pot" screw is located on the bottom of the unit, and by turning it left or right you adjust your picture. The light indicates "peak performance" at its brightest point.

Hook up is a simple process of plugging the VideoKey in (a power supply is included) and connecting its monitor cable to the back monitor port of your ST. The "real" monitor cable plugs into the feed through monitor port. The television, composite and audio plugs are standard female RCA connectors, so hook up to any of the above is a snap. However, you may need to purchase a separate cable for each, if you don't already have one. An adaptor may also be necessary, depending on the type of connectors your equipment has.

With VideoKey, a whole new world of computer video production is opened up! Literally anything you can create or put up on your screen can be recorded to video tape (any type, VHS or BETA) as easily as you record your favorite TV show. Immediately the potential for this device becomes clear...(Bing, light bulb!) Video titling and text, software demos without your computer, computer video animation with Antic's Cyber Studio, or the Aegis Animator etc. The possibilities are unlimited! Even video advertisements and professional business presentations can now be aided by the presence of your computer graphics.

You're probably wondering how the output looks, well it's very good... not great or computer monitor quality, but it is still very good. You have to understand a few things here. RGB is a type of video that allows a higher resolution display for computer monitors. The color signals are transmitted through separate wires to an RGB monitor which eliminates the need for an interface with "single line" video. This way nothing is decoded or translated and the result is a superior picture. Color composite video contains all the necessary color,brightness and synchronization signals needed, all crammed into one signal! The composite monitor then has to translate this info into separate data... red, green, blue, brightness, etc... The result here is a picture of lower quality or definition. Since the signal the VideoKey sends is for a composite monitor or TV, you can see why the picture is not "top quality". No fault of Videokey, it's just inherent to the video type signal.

Finally, the internal circuitry was optimized for use with low resolution. This was done for several reasons, but chiefly for the best possible color display. Since most graphic and animation programs, as well as most games are run in low res., plus the fact that low resolution displays the addition colors available, this was indeed the way to go.

Practical Solution's VideoKey fills a major gap and serves its function well as an RGB to video interface. It is sturdily constructed, produces a nice screen (equal on screen or tape (composite video monitors do offer a slightly sharper picture than a regular television set)) and is a real bargain at $99.95. If you need color, or video tape output, I highly recommend this product.

David Glien
1020 Parkway Dr.
Brookfield WI 53005
Dec 90